

# Experimental 7-Day Evapotranspiration Forecast Product Descriptions Document (PDD)

## Part I - Mission Connection

- a. Product Description – The experimental 7-day evapotranspiration forecast displays graphically on the Internet the expected amount of evapotranspiration in hundredths of an inch for each of the next 7 days using a reference crop of alfalfa. A second graphic is provided for each day that indicates whether the evapotranspiration is expected to be above or below normal. This product will be issued daily at 5 am local time on a seasonal basis (March 15-October 15).
- b. Product Type - Experimental
- c. Purpose - The purpose of this experimental product is to provide our customers and partners with enhanced detail on the amount of evapotranspiration expected for the next seven days.
- d. Audience - The audience is any customer in the WFO forecast area that would like access to evapotranspiration data. We envision farmers using this product as well as the average citizen who has outdoor watering needs.
- e. Presentation Format - All displays will occur via a web page interface. The forecast will be generated using a cron that triggers at 5am local time.
- d. Feedback Method - We will solicit feedback through an existing NWS Feedback form and/or e-mail to the WFO Webmaster. The period of evaluation will be from August 1, 2007 through July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.
- e. Example URL = <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/pdt/forecast/graphicalForecasts/et/index.html>
- f. PDD Approved by Robert Tibi, Acting NWS Western Region Director

## **Part II - Technical Description**

- a. Format and Science Basis - This product is being developed to provide evapotranspiration forecasts to our customers for the next 7 days using a common methodology of an alfalfa reference crop. An algorithm is utilized, drawing upon existing NDFD gridded forecasts, to generate the forecast output.
- b. Availability - The graphics will be available 24/7. They will be updated once per day at 5 am local time.
- c. Additional Information – Although local farmers will benefit from this application, the forecast output is available to all customers and will benefit anyone who has outdoor watering needs.